

**REMARKS**

Specification

The Examiner requests Applicants to amend the specification consistent with the optional guidelines set forth in paragraph 1 of the Office Action. Applicants have complied with the Examiner's request. No new matter has been added.

Rejection of Claims 12-14 Under 35 U.S.C. 101

Claims 12-14 are rejected by the Examiner under 35 U.S.C. 101 because the invention is directed to non-statutory subject matter. In response, Applicants have amended claims 12-14 so that they are no longer directed to uses per se. Product claims 12-14 are in condition for allowance as they are dependent on allowed claim 1. Therefore, this rejection should be withdrawn by the Examiner.

Rejection of Claims 1-18 Under 35 U.S.C. 112, Second Paragraph

Claims 1-18 are rejected by the Examiner under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, for the reasons set forth in paragraph 5 of the Office Action. This rejection is respectfully traversed. Reconsideration and withdrawal thereof are requested.

Claims 1 and 6 have been amended to clarify that the percentages are based on weight. This amendment does not narrow the scope of the invention and merely clarifies what is

implicitly intended in the claims as originally filed. Indeed, all figures mentioned in the application are percentages by weight. This is standard practice when there are mixtures of polymers. Moreover, the working examples, specifically examples 1 and 5, indicate that the components in the mixture are present in weight percent.

In addition, the term "preferably" has been cancelled from claims 4 and 9. The cancelled subject matter has been reintroduced into new claims 19 and 20. These amendments do not narrow the scope of the invention.

Finally, claim 10 is amended to clarify that Applicants intended to utilize the phrase "consisting essentially of". The scope of this phrase is well understood.

In view of the amendments to the claims and the comments hereinabove, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections of the claims under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, are respectfully requested.

Paragraph 6 of the Office Action

The reference numbers have been deleted from the claims. Also, conventional U.S. spellings have been utilized in the claims. These are clearly non-narrowing claim amendments.


Allowable Subject Matter

The Examiner indicates that claims 1-11 and 15-18 are allowable if rewritten to overcome the rejections under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph. In view of the amendments to the claims, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 1-20 are in condition for allowance.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

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